



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Proposal would allow others in region to “piggyback” on winning bid...

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENDS OUT REQUEST FOR BIDS ON PURCHASING CANADIAN DRUGS

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Montgomery County today announced that a “request for proposal” has been issued to American and Canadian drug distributors to bid on the program that would give County employees and retirees the option of buying high-quality, less-expensive prescription maintenance drugs.

The Montgomery County Council last September 21 overwhelmingly approved a program that could give 85,000 County employees, retirees, and their dependents the choice of buying safe, high-quality, lower-priced prescription drugs from Canada or elsewhere. Depending on the rate of participation, County taxpayers could save \$15 million annually.

The County spends an estimated \$70 million annually on prescription drugs for employees, retirees, and their families. In the Montgomery County Public Schools system alone, prescription drug costs for active employees have more than doubled over the past six years (from \$883 per employee to \$1,992) and nearly doubled for retirees (\$1,513 to \$2,913).

“A voluntary program that allows County agency employees, retirees, and their dependents to order maintenance drugs from an approved supplier is a common sense solution to inaction on the federal and state levels,” said Council President Tom Perez.

“We have exhaustively worked to explore the safety, cost, and legal issues involved with purchasing Canadian drugs. We have carefully crafted a plan that will enable us to carry out such a program safely and effectively.

(more...)

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"A panel of public health and pharmaceutical experts has worked with us to put together this request for proposal and will help us to evaluate the responses and pick the winning vendor."

The bid proposal includes a rider that could allow other local jurisdictions participating in the Washington Area Council of Governments to "piggyback" on the Montgomery County proposal to initiate similar programs in their areas. Council President Perez has already written to District of Columbia Council chair Linda Cropp and Prince George's County Council chair Sam Dean with information on the initiative.

Bids are due on March 1. A decision on the winning vendor will be announced on April 25, with a projected start date of July 1 -- the beginning of the County's fiscal year.

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